

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 7 February

ACEA reiterates industry commitment to building safety technologies into CVs

The European Automobile Manufacturer's Association (ACEA) has reiterated the industry's commitment to building safety technologies into commercial vehicles ahead of vote by the Transport Committee of the European Parliament on the revised directive on truck weights and dimensions. The primary objective of the weights and dimensions proposal is to improve fuel-efficiency. To this end, ACEA has called on policy makers to introduce flexibility on the length of trucks, rather than allowing longer cab fronts for aerodynamic purposes only stating that this would enable manufacturers to incorporate into vehicle design innovations which can really improve fuel-efficiency and drive down emissions, but which require extra space. A number of such fuel-efficiency innovations requiring extra space already exist, such as alternative powertrains, more efficient cooling solutions, fuel tanks for alternative fuels with others in the pipeline, like waste heat recovery. ACEA state that these innovations have a far greater impact on fuel-efficiency than the proposed length extension, which is exclusively limited to the re-design of the cab for aerodynamic improvements.

(Source: ACEA)

<http://www.acea.be/press-releases/article/truck-manufacturers-highlight-safety-commitment-flexible-approach>

European Commission rules out fuel consumption meters for vehicles

The European Commission's industry department has decided not to propose the introduction of fuel consumption meters (FCMs) and gear-shift indicators (GSIs) in all light-duty vehicles stating that to do so would cause an additional burden for vehicles manufacturers and, consequently, for consumers. A European Commission statement noted that the extra cost would be passed on to consumers, lessening the

affordability of new vehicles, stating that this "would not improve in the short and medium term the competitiveness of the sector", which is already "struggling with falling revenues". The department therefore considered the measure "unsupportable". GSIs are compulsory in all new passenger cars from this year and the Commission considered extending this measure to light commercial vehicles.

(Source: ENDS)

<http://www.endseurope.com/34724/fuel-consumption-meters-for-vehicles-ruled-out>



December industrial producer prices up by 0.2%

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in December 2013, compared with November 2013, industrial producer prices rose by 0.2% in both the euro area and the EU whilst in December 2013, compared with December 2012, industrial producer prices decreased by 0.8% in the euro area and by 0.6% in the EU. In December 2013, compared with November 2013, prices in total industry excluding construction and the energy sector remained stable in both the euro area and the EU. Prices in the energy sector increased by 0.5% and 0.7% respectively. Non-durable consumer goods rose by 0.1% in the euro area and remained stable in the EU. In both zones, intermediate goods, capital goods and durable consumer goods all remained stable. Among the member states for which data is available, the highest increases were registered in Spain (+1.1%), the Czech Republic and Sweden (both +0.8%), and the largest decreases in Estonia (-1.7%),

Latvia (-0.9%) and Lithuania (-0.6%). In December 2013, compared with December 2012, prices in total industry excluding construction and the energy sector fell by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.1% in the EU. Prices in the energy sector decreased by 2.0% and 1.5% respectively. Intermediate goods dropped by 1.7% in the euro area and by 1.5% in the EU. In both zones, durable consumer goods increased by 0.6%. Capital goods gained 0.6% in the euro area and 0.7% in the EU. Non-durable consumer goods rose by 0.9% and 1.0% respectively. Among the member states for which data is available, the largest decreases were observed in Cyprus (-5.2%), Belgium (-3.6%), Bulgaria (-2.8%), Croatia and the Netherlands (both -2.6%), and the highest increases in Estonia (+7.2%), the Czech Republic (+1.8%), Ireland (+1.4%) and Romania (+1.0%).

(Source: Eurostat)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-14-20_en.htm?locale=en



European Parliament backs strong EU stance on 2030 clean energy goals

The European Parliament has voted for a 40% cut in CO₂ emissions, a 30% share of the energy market for renewables and a 40% improvement in energy efficiency, all by 2030. The resolution, approved by 341 votes to 263, criticised the Commission's proposed energy and climate framework, which is meant to extend the current 2020 climate change and energy package. The vote itself is not legally-binding but agreement will need to be reached between the Commission, Parliament and member states before a final proposal can be signed off later this year. Energy ministers will meet in Brussels in March to discuss the 2030 targets, but MEPs are worried that the Commission may try to "bypass" Parliament by choosing a different legislative basis when tabling its final proposal, in October at the earliest. An

amendment adopted by the European Parliament expressed the institution's "deep concern about the proposals for a new governance structure for the 2030 framework, and insists that the Commission should base any legal proposal on full co-decision between Parliament and the Council."

(Source: Euractiv)

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/meps-confirm-ambitious-stance-20-news-533298>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

Tuesday 11 February

General Affairs Council

Key items on the agenda for Ministers include:

- Presentation by the Greek Presidency of its six-month work programme.
- Preparation and examination of draft agenda for the European Council meeting of 20-21 March.

European Parliament (Meetings of Committees - Brussels)

Tuesday 11 February

IMCO

Adoption of draft report and vote: Development of the eCall in-vehicle system

TRAN

Adoption of draft report and vote: Maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community

Wednesday 12 February

ENVI

Announcement of the timetable: Sound level of motor vehicles

Thursday 13 February

Exchange of views: Review of the EU – Japan trade negotiations and state of play of ongoing triologue negotiations.

Consideration of amendments, adoption of motion for a resolution and vote: State of play in the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement